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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/827,451

04/20/2004

Nicolette Theresa Hunter

2987

7590

09/19/2006

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EXAMINER

AFTERGUT, JEFF H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1733

DATE MAILED: 09/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/827,451

Applicant(s)

HUNTER, NICOLETTE THERESA

Examiner

Jeff H. Aftergut

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Content of Specification

- (a) Title of the Invention: See 37 CFR 1.72(a) and MPEP § 606. The title of the invention should be placed at the top of the first page of the specification unless the title is provided in an application data sheet. The title of the invention should be brief but technically accurate and descriptive, preferably from two to seven words may not contain more than 500 characters.
- (b) Cross-References to Related Applications: See 37 CFR 1.78 and MPEP § 201.11.
- (c) Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research and Development: See MPEP § 310.
- (d) The Names Of The Parties To A Joint Research Agreement: See 37 CFR 1.71(g).
- (e) Incorporation-By-Reference Of Material Submitted On a Compact Disc: The specification is required to include an incorporation-by-reference of electronic documents that are to become part of the permanent United States Patent and Trademark Office records in the file of a patent application. See 37 CFR 1.52(e) and MPEP § 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text were permitted as electronic documents on compact discs beginning on September 8, 2000.
- (f) Background of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(c). The specification should set forth the Background of the Invention in two parts:
 - (1) Field of the Invention: A statement of the field of art to which the invention pertains. This statement may include a paraphrasing of the applicable U.S. patent classification definitions of the subject matter of the claimed invention. This item may also be titled "Technical Field."
 - (2) Description of the Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98: A description of the related art known to the applicant and including, if applicable, references to specific related art and problems involved in the prior art which are solved by the applicant's invention. This item may also be titled "Background Art."

- (g) Brief Summary of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(d). A brief summary or general statement of the invention as set forth in 37 CFR 1.73. The summary is separate and distinct from the abstract and is directed toward the invention rather than the disclosure as a whole. The summary may point out the advantages of the invention or how it solves problems previously existent in the prior art (and preferably indicated in the Background of the Invention). In chemical cases it should point out in general terms the utility of the invention. If possible, the nature and gist of the invention or the inventive concept should be set forth. Objects of the invention should be treated briefly and only to the extent that they contribute to an understanding of the invention.
- (h) Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawing(s): See MPEP § 608.01(f). A reference to and brief description of the drawing(s) as set forth in 37 CFR 1.74.
- (i) Detailed Description of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(g). A description of the preferred embodiment(s) of the invention as required in 37 CFR 1.71. The description should be as short and specific as is necessary to describe the invention adequately and accurately. Where elements or groups of elements, compounds, and processes, which are conventional and generally widely known in the field of the invention described and their exact nature or type is not necessary for an understanding and use of the invention by a person skilled in the art, they should not be described in detail. However, where particularly complicated subject matter is involved or where the elements, compounds, or processes may not be commonly or widely known in the field, the specification should refer to another patent or readily available publication which adequately describes the subject matter.
- (j) Claim or Claims: See 37 CFR 1.75 and MPEP § 608.01(m). The claim or claims must commence on separate sheet or electronic page (37 CFR 1.52(b)(3)). Where a claim sets forth a plurality of elements or steps, each element or step of the claim should be separated by a line indentation. There may be plural indentations to further segregate subcombinations or related steps. See 37 CFR 1.75 and MPEP § 608.01(i)-(p).
- (k) Abstract of the Disclosure: See MPEP § 608.01(f). A brief narrative of the disclosure as a whole in a single paragraph of 150 words or less commencing on a separate sheet following the claims. In an international application which has entered the national stage (37 CFR 1.491(b)), the applicant need not submit an abstract commencing on a separate sheet if an abstract was published with the international application under PCT Article 21. The abstract that appears on the cover page of the pamphlet published by the International Bureau (IB) of the World Intellectual

Property Organization (WIPO) is the abstract that will be used by the USPTO. See MPEP § 1893.03(e).

- (I) Sequence Listing. See 37 CFR 1.821-1.825 and MPEP §§ 2421-2431. The requirement for a sequence listing applies to all sequences disclosed in a given application, whether the sequences are claimed or not. See MPEP § 2421.02.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected as failing to define the invention in the manner required by 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The claim(s) are narrative in form and replete with indefinite and functional or operational language. The structure which goes to make up the device must be clearly and positively specified. The structure must be organized and correlated in such a manner as to present a complete operative device. The claim(s) must be in one sentence form only. Note the format of the claims in the patent(s) cited.

It is not clear from the claims what statutory class of invention applicant intends the invention to be related to. Namely, it is not clear whether the claimed invention is a process of attaching an article of jewelry to clothing or a process of making an assembly for such attachment. Additionally, it is not clear whether the claims are directed to an article of manufacture which would be defined by the assembly of the pin, the magnet and the article of clothing. Applicant must define the invention in a clear manner such that it is known what is defined by the same. Applicant is referred to the prior art cited herein as examples of proper claiming of the invention. Applicant is advised that a claim

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begins with a single capitalized word and ends with a period at the end of the same (and only one). It would appear that the applicant intends claim 1 to define a method of using a magnet and pin assembly to hold an object to an article of clothing. An example of an acceptable claim language for such an invention is as follows:

1. A method of attaching an object to an article of clothing comprising:

providing a first magnet with an adhesive coating on one side of the first magnet;

attaching a pin to the first magnet with the adhesive;

applying the first magnet to an article of clothing having an outer surface and an inner surface and securing the first magnet in place on the outer surface of the article of clothing with a second magnet disposed on the inner surface of the article of clothing to secure the first magnet in place, and;

attaching the object to the pin for securing the same to the article of clothing.

Another possible way for applicant to claim the invention would be as an article of assembly which follows as:

1. A magnetic attach assembly comprising:

a first magnet having an adhesive on one surface thereon;

a pin attached to the first magnet with the adhesive, and;

a second magnet associated with the first magnet for attachment of the first magnet with the pin thereon to an article of clothing without piercing the clothing with the pin.

For purposes of examination, it is assumed that the applicant intended the claims to be directed to the association of a pin with a magnet for attachment to an article of

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clothing and for attachment of another object via the pin. The applicant is advised that the claims not start with the phrase "I claim" but rather are intended to recite what statutory class of invention the claims are directed to. As presented in their current form, it is assumed that the claims are method of use claims which include adhesive attachment of either a fabric or a pin to a magnet for magnetically attaching the same to an article of clothing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either one of Japanese Patent 2000-350607 or Mars (US 5732451) in view of Japanese Patent 2001-221210.

Japanese Patent '607 suggested that it was known at the time the invention was made to employ a safety pin 2 which was associated with a magnet 1 and secured thereto through holes 10 in the magnet. The magnet with the associated safety pin 2 was attached to an article of clothing 4 with a magnet 5 attached to the article of clothing 4 with adhesive paste 51 wherein the safety pin 2 does not penetrate the article of clothing to be secured thereto, see paragraph [0011] of the translation. The reference failed to teach that those skilled in the art would have associated with fastener (the safety pin) to the magnet with an adhesive. Mars (US '451) suggested that it was known

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at the time the invention was made to attach jewelry to an article of clothing without having to pierce the clothing with a pin from the jewelry by attaching a pin to a magnet through an anchor 48 which was associated with a magnet 42 and secured thereto. The assembly was used to hold the pin in place against clothing 60 with a second magnet 36. The reference failed to make mention of the use of an adhesive to directly secure the fastener (the pin) to the magnet.

Japanese Patent '210 suggested that it was known to attach a clip (a fastener) to a magnet for the purpose of attachment of the clip to an article of clothing via the magnet. More specifically, the reference suggested that clip 2 was attached to the magnet 1 with an adhesive material, see paragraph [0006] of the disclosure. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ an adhesive material to attach a magnet to a fastener for use in application of the same to clothing as suggested by Japanese Patent 2001-221210 in the process of attaching a fastening pin to an article of clothing without piercing the clothing with the use of magnets as suggested by either one of Japanese Patent 2000-350607 or Mars (US '451).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

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only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Verbaas et al.

Verbaas et al suggested the use of a safety pin 128 attached to a magnet 126 which was then attached to an article of clothing 124 with the use of a magnet 121, 122, and 123 in order to secure the pin to the garment without penetration of the garment with the pin assembly.

Conclusion


7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Madore suggested that one skilled in the art would have attached plural pins to a magnet. Canadian Patent 2,260,113 suggested that those skilled in the art would have known how to attach articles to clothing items with a magnetic assembly. The references to Mars (US 6,282,760) has a similar disclosure to Mars '451 discussed above.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeff H. Aftergut whose telephone number is 571-272-1212. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:15-345 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on 571-272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Jeff H. Aftergut
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1733

JHA
September 15, 2006